Back Campus

Tower Road

Tower road becomes a powerful processional corridor from Hoskins Avenue to the Hart House landscape. Columnar trees mark the axis leading through Soldier’s Tower and help mediate the transition from the facades of Wycliffe College and Hart House to the athletic fields opposite. Instead of temporary bleachers for special sporting events, permanent seating is embedded in a vegetated berm, giving the Back Campus Fields a robust landscape context. With three tiers, spectators on the west side are able to see over the fence while pedestrians walking along Tower Road are able to see clear over the shoulder-height berm. The terraced seating areas are spaced to allow a major connection from the fields to the Hart House Gym and new bike parking.

Whitney Walk

The impressive scale of existing elms along Whitney Walk make this a memorable entry to the campus and provide relief from the openness of the adjacent athletic fields. Existing concrete pavers are replaced with granite, and the path is rerouted slightly to accentuate the inflection from east to west. Benches are added to make this a contemplative space to occupy as well as move through. New trees are planted at each end of the walk to complete the grove, and existing trees are protected and monitored to inform an ongoing strategy for replacement and removal as needed. Lush shade-tolerant understory shrubs are planted on the walk’s west side to soften the facade of Whitney Hall.

Hoskin Avenue

Hoskins Avenue gains new significance as a campus threshold with the reimagined Tower Road. New path connections along the face of Wycliffe College link Tower Road and the Hart House pathways to the historic Philosopher’s Walk across Hoskin Avenue. Art elements placed along this walk help reinforce this connection and terminate at the two museums at University College and Hart House. Removal of the existing iron fence as well as the view-obstructing understory plantings at the street front help open up views into the athletic fields to University College, Soldier’s Tower, and the CN Tower in the distance.